



Mishawaka Communicator



Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.

Dave Wood, Mayor

www.mishawaka.in.gov

June 2015

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



As I make my way through town on a daily basis, I have noticed that our parks and Riverwalk seem busier than ever. The Princess City is bustling with activity. I can't tell you how gratified I am to see our park system get utilized, not only because we place a lot of effort into managing our parks but also because I am a big kid at heart and have spent a lot of time in Mishawaka parks myself while growing up (which my wife tells me I still haven't done).

Mishawaka has 30 parks and I believe that they play a key role in making Mishawaka "the best hometown in America." We know that parks are difference makers when it comes to determining where people choose to live,

work and raise a family. In fact, investing in quality of life enhancements for Mishawaka is one of my passions as Mayor and I believe they are making a real difference in three ways. First, they give kids a great place to get out and get active towards a healthier lifestyle. Second, we know that families want to live close to our parks and that our parks actually raise property values in our neighborhoods. Finally, investment in our parks has a direct and positive correlation with economic development investment in our City. For these reasons, we will continue to invest aggressively in our park system.

Our latest park improvement was just completed at Merrifield Park. On Friday, May 15th, Ms. St. Clair's 1st grade class at Twin Branch School and Ms. Whitaker's 3rd grade class at Mishawaka Catholic were onhand to cut the long ribbon thus officially opening the City's newest and largest (for the time being) playground, Camp La Salle. The event was a success despite me standing between 80 students with scissors and their new playground! As soon as the ribbon was cut, the "thundering herd" rushed excitedly to the playground and broke it in for us. The event ended with the students giving it their unanimous seal of approval.

The \$300,000 Project includes a large fort-like play structure that was designed to accommodate more than 100 children at a time complete with swings, climbers, slides and a (cont'd on next page)

Join the This Counts movement!

Health Information from Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

Because the health of our community affects us all, Saint Joseph Health System partnered with other organizations in 2014 to form This Counts. Since then, This Counts has added even more partners with 50 nonprofits, health agencies, schools and businesses joining the movement to encourage better health by using the tools we all have available.

This movement is critical because, for the past two decades, the health of our community has been on a steady decline. According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's recent health rankings, St. Joseph County was the 26th healthiest county in Indiana in 1991. Today, we have fallen to 41st on the list.

This Counts uses encouragement to promote healthy activities that can be achieved by everyone. Taking out the trash, parking at the back of the lot or choosing to eat an apple instead of a chocolate bar are perfect examples of healthy steps we can all take — and they all count toward a greater wellness goal.

If you are struggling to make these wellness decisions, the This Counts partners are here to help. All of the partners have committed to joining the journey to better wellness and are taking steps to making Michiana a healthier place to live. We are all in this together.

To join the movement, visit ThisCounts.org and view videos on how other members of the community are starting their wellness journey. You can also upload your own video and tell your story to encourage others or join the conversation on Facebook and follow This Counts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun-Aug	"Rockin' by the River" Summer Day Camps
Jul 22	Kamm Island Fest



June 26-27, 2015

Fri 6/26	6-10:45pm (fireworks to follow)
Sat 6/27	7am-10pm Summerfest 5K (8am start)

More information at
mishawaka.in.gov/summerfest

EBERHART-PETRO GOLF EVENTS

Jun-Jul	Ladies Golf 101 Jr. Bag Tag Program
Jun 20/21 27/28	Men's Metro Golf Tournament
Jul 8	63rd Annual Garbage Open

Summer Concert Series

Battell Park Bandshell

Mondays 7-8pm
beginning June 8th

Beutter Park

Thursdays 6:30-8:30pm
beginning June 4th

Eberhart-Petro

Fridays 7:30-9pm
beginning June 5th

Summer Movie Nights

beginning July 17th

More information at
mishawaka.in.gov/summer-concert-series

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood *(continued)*

poured rubber surface for safety (a City first). New benches, sidewalks, fencing, and plantings also add to the beautifully set playground. The playground is also the City's first handicapped accessible, ADA compliant playground. For a whimsical touch, the City contracted with local wood sculptor, Victor Riley, to carve three ash tree trunks into animals that used to inhabit the area including bears, wolves and wildcats. Mr. Riley designed these tree carvings with crevices to encourage wild life nesting areas. In fact, robins built nests and laid eggs in two of the sculptures and right about the time of the playground opening, I'm happy to inform you, Mishawaka has a few new (hatched) residents!

Why was the area named Camp La Salle you might ask? I like to add educational components into our new attractions, especially as it relates to Mishawaka History. That area represented a significant enough investment that I believed warranted a special name. Camp LaSalle was chosen after Rene Robert de LaSalle, the French explorer who is credited as the first white man to enter the northern Indiana territory. On December 5, 1679, LaSalle and 32 men came up the river searching for a portage between the Saint Joseph River and the Kankakee River. After they set up camp for the night near the very spot of the playground, LaSalle left to explore on his own. LaSalle was separated from his men but was able to follow the river back to their camp. I think that naming the playground will help children connect to our history. It is fun to envision LaSalle, the explorer, walking this stretch of river and camping near this very spot and we tried to recreate the scene in a fun, historic way. Markers and signs have been posted at the playground to explain those historic events.

I would like to thank the Troyer Group in Mishawaka for their great design, HRP Construction for building the playground and the City of Mishawaka's Central Services for creating the Camp LaSalle signage and for improvements to the surrounding area.

We are not yet done with Merrifield Park. In fact, the Mishawaka Parks Department is in the middle of a master planning process to make further improvements. The next phase will likely start in 2017 when the Riverwalk will be extended by another 1000 feet connecting the Mishawaka Avenue Bridge pedestrian underpass with Indiana Avenue. The City has received 80% federal funding for this project. A new restroom building and accessibility ramps to our rentable lodge along the river, Castle Manor, will be included in the project.

Other Merrifield Park improvements being considered in the master plan for future phases include a \$3.5 million renovation of the pool complex and ice rink that would make it larger to accommodate activities such as hockey and curling. A new and larger central building will provide a modern ice rink and pool amenities along with change rooms, lockers, a new indoor rentable court and enlarged concession area. A glass wall will look onto the rink for increased viewing of ice events. A new zero depth infant pool is planned for the pool area along with outdoor seating for the picnic area. New shelters, including one that will that could be used as a permanent stage for events such as Summerfest, are also being considered.

Our City is actively moving forward promoting a well-balanced investment for our young children, while promoting healthy outdoor activities for our residents looking to improve or maintain healthy lifestyles! Enjoy your summer and I hope to see you in our parks.

SAVE THE DATE!! We will kick-off July 4th with the ribbon cutting of our new Central Park! The event will include music and fireworks!

Mayor Paul

Mishawaka Parks Department - Public Swimming Facilities

Merrifield Complex ~ 1000 E. Mishawaka Ave. 574-258-1665

Public Swim Hours Daily (weather permitting) 12-4pm & 6-9pm
Summer Swim Lessons available

Mary Gibbard Pool ~ 1024 Somerset Ave. 574-258-1721

Public Swim Hours Sun & Wed 6-9pm
 Mon-Tues / Thurs-Sat 11am-5pm

Rental available contact:

bmick@mishawaka.in.gov or sdelregno@mishawaka.in.gov

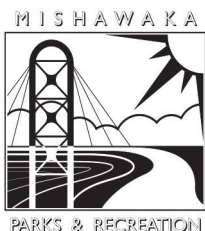


ONLINE ACCESS

The City of Mishawaka maintains an online presence and can be found on the web at
<http://mishawaka.in.gov>

Find us on Facebook at
<http://facebook.com/cityofmishawaka>

The current issue of the Mishawaka Communicator is always available as of the 1st of every month at
<http://mishawaka.in.gov/communicator>



Visit us online at
www.mishawaka.in.gov/parksandrecreation.

Send your questions, comments, or concerns to communicator_feedback@mishawaka.in.gov